

Report

15

ON THE SUBJECT OF

EDUCATION,

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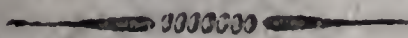
THE SENATE,

OF

PENNSYLVANIA,

MARCH 1, 1822.

MR. WURTS, CHAIRMAN.



C. MOWRY—Printer.

Resolutions.

Resolved, That the Committee on Education be instructed to ascertain and report to the Senate, a list of the *universities* and *colleges*, incorporated by the Legislature of Pennsylvania, with the dates of their institution, the towns and counties wherein located, the amount of appropriations made to the same, by the Commonwealth, the average number of students and the expenses of their education and support, together with such information, relative to the professorships and the branches of learning taught, as may enable the Legislature to judge how far that provision of the constitution has been complied with, which declares that "The arts and sciences shall be promoted in one or more seminaries of learning."

Resolved, That the same committee be also instructed to ascertain and report to the Senate, a list of the *academies*, incorporated within the state, with the dates of their institution, the amount of appropriations made by the Commonwealth to each; the towns and counties in which located, together with such information, as may enable the Legislature to form a correct opinion of their advancing or declining condition.

Resolved, That the same committee be also instructed to ascertain and report, how far the existing laws of this Commonwealth, which provide for the education of *poor children* in those counties respectively in which the Lancastrian system has or has not been introduced, is operative in producing the desired result; and whether any, and if any, what further provisions are necessary to carry into effect, the constitutional injunction, that "The Legislature shall, as soon as conveniently may be, provide by law, for the establishment of schools throughout the state, in such manner, that the poor may be taught *gratis*."

PURSUANT to sundry resolutions, on the subject of Education, adopted by the Senate, the Committee on Education,

REPORT,

That from various documents collected by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and by the Chairman of the Committee on Education, in the Senate, during the last session of the Legislature, they have gleaned a number of facts, which they respectfully submit, together with such other matter, called for by the resolutions, the sources of information, open to the committee, have enabled them to collect.

1. UNIVERSITIES.

The Committee find but one seminary of learning, of this grade, in actual operation, within the Commonwealth. That is "The University of Pennsylvania," "located" in the city of Philadelphia.— This institution had its origin in an academy, founded in that city, in the year 1749, by a few distinguished and public spirited individuals, among whom is found the name of Benjamin Franklin. To this laudable object, that great man and his co-adjutors, appear to have been stimulated, by a conviction, that unless effectual measures were taken, to increase the means, which then existed, of educating the youth of Pennsylvania, they were in danger, to use their own language on the occasion, "not only of wanting a succession of fit persons for the public stations of life, but even of degenerating into the greatest ignorance."

In 1750, an English, Latin and Mathematical school was opened in the academy. The institution, thus created by individual enterprise and liberality, continued to flourish, and in 1753, the trustees were incorporated by the "Proprietaries of Pennsylvania." In order to extend its sphere of usefulness, a new charter was granted in 1755, by the provisions of which a college was grafted upon the former academy; and after the addition of this new department, the institution was denominated "The College, Academy and Charitable School of Philadelphia, in the Province of Pennsylvania." In 1779, probably under the influence of feelings excited by the revolutionary struggle, the General Assembly passed an act annulling the charters above mentioned, modelling the seminary upon its present form, under the name of "The University of the state of Pennsylvania," and vesting in the trustees of this new corporation, all the franchises and estates of "The Trustees of the College, Academy and Charitable School of Philadelphia, in the Province of Pennsylvania." But in 1789, the Legislature, conceiving the act of 1779 to be "repugnant to justice, a violation of the constitution of the Commonwealth and dangerous in its precedent to all incorporated bodies," repealed so much thereof "as affected in any way the ancient corporation of 'The trustees of the College, Academy and Charitable School of Philadelphia, in the Province of Pennsylvania,' and the rights and property of that corporation were again restored. By the act of 1791, however, the two institutions, by agreement and request of their respective trustees, were once more united on the terms mentioned in the act, under the name of "The University of Pennsylvania," and have so continued to the present time.

By the act of 1779, the Supreme Executive Council were directed to reserve and appropriate, to the use of the University, so many of the confiscated estates, as might be necessary to yield to it a yearly income, not exceeding £1500, computing wheat at ten shillings per bushel; such reservations and appropriations, to be from time to time, laid before the General Assembly for their approba-

tion and confirmation. In pursuance of this direction, the Supreme Executive Council set over to the trustees, certain estates, rated by the Council at the gross sum of £25,000; and the same having been laid before the General Assembly, an act was passed in 1785, "to confirm them to the trustees of the University." Several of these estates, however, were subsequently claimed by individuals, whose rights were not affected by the confirming act of 1785, and the trustees were evicted by due course of law. Hence the intended grant of £1500 *per annum*, has actually amounted to not more than about £1200 *per annum*, with the inconvenience and expense consequent upon a disputed title. This, together with \$3,000 given to aid in the purchase of ground for a botanical garden, is "*the amount of appropriations made by the Commonwealth*" to "*The University of Pennsylvania.*"

By reference to the "annual statement of the funds of the institution," laid before the Legislature, during the last session, pursuant to the provisions of the act of 1791, it will be seen, that the "gross amount of revenue for the year 1820," derived from real and personal estate, was \$11,046 58 cts. The library and apparatus, belonging to the institution, are valued at \$12,000. The "annual statement" made to the present Legislature, represents the income of 1821, at \$10,842 11 cts. The funds of the institution appear to have been principally collected by private subscription, both in Europe and America.

In this seminary there are at this time, three Professors in the department of Arts, a Provost, Vice Provost, and a Professor of Languages; six Professors of Medical Science, two teachers of the Grammar School, and a teacher of the Charitable School. "*The branches of learning taught*" in the Department of Arts, are the following: By the professor of Languages, the Latin and Greek languages; in the acquisition of which, the student is carried through a course of the most approved classic authors. By the Professor of Natural Philosophy, (the present Vice Provost) Algebra, Euclid's Elements, Practical Geometry, Trigonometry, Mensuration, Spherics, Use of the Maps, Dialling, Conic Sections, Fluxions, Chemistry, Natural Philosophy and Astronomy. By the Provost, or Professor of Moral Philosophy, History, Rhetoric, Logic, Metaphysics, Moral Philosophy and Natural Theology. To this course is added by the Provost, Lectures upon the science of the human mind, delivered once a week, during the whole term; and by the Vice Provost, a series of lectures upon Natural Philosophy. In the Grammar School, the pupil passes through a course of studies preparatory to the higher branches of science.

"*The number of students,*" who have usually been receiving their education at this seminary, taking all its departments into consideration, has been considerable, at all times. The Grammar School formerly contained between one and two hundred, but is

now reduced to 50 or 60. The Medical College has varied from 300 to 500; the number is greater at the present time than it has been for some years past. The department of Arts appears to have received less of public encouragement than any other branch of the institution. It is supposed that the "*average*" number of students in this department, until within a few years, has been between 30 and 40, and the number of graduates between 10 and 12. It is highly gratifying to learn, however, that a favorable change has recently taken place in the prospects of this department. The cloud that has hung over it, is rapidly passing away, and it now promises to answer all the objects of its creation, and to fulfil the expectations of the friends of science and literature. The number of graduates, last year, was 35. The whole number of students *now*, in the several college classes, is about 75; and a considerable accession is expected.

The merits and extensive utility of the Medical department are so well known, that it would be superfluous, for the committee to offer any remarks thereon. It has long been the pride of our state and country. It has flourished without a rival. The committee cannot doubt, but that the kindred institutions, which are rising in other states, so far from depressing, will have a tendency to confirm and establish, on a sure basis, the reputation of the Medical School in the University of Pennsylvania, by calling into active and vigorous operation, that generous and liberal emulation, which is both the parent and nurse of genuine science.

It has been already remarked, that there is no other seminary of learning of the same grade, *in actual operation*, in the state. In the year 1819, the legislature passed an act, which had for its object the establishment of an University, near the town of Allegheny, in the county of Allegheny, to be called the "Western University of Pennsylvania." By the third section of the act, "forty acres of the vacant lands belonging to the Commonwealth, bounded by or adjoining the out-lots of the town of Allegheny," were granted to the trustees of the contemplated institution. But it appears, that there was, at the time of the grant, a pre-existing claim, (under an act of the General Assembly, passed in 1787,) on the part of the owners of lots in the town of Allegheny, to a right of common in the land thus granted to the trustees, in consequence of which, they have not been able to avail themselves of the grant; and the object contemplated by the act, to wit, the establishment of an University, has not been carried into effect.

2. COLLEGES.

DICKINSON COLLEGE, (so called "in memory of the great and important services rendered to his country, by John Dickinson, then President of the Supreme Executive Council, and in commemoration of his very liberal donation to the institution,") is "lo-

cated" at the borough of Carlisle, in the county of Cumberland. It was established and incorporated, by the Legislature, in the year 1783. No grant was made to the institution by the incorporating act; but from the preamble thereto, it appears, "that a large sum of money, sufficient to begin and carry on the design for some considerable time, had already been subscribed by the generous liberality of diverse persons, who were desirous to promote so useful an institution; and no doubt" was entertained by the legislature, "but that further donations would be voluntarily made, so as to carry it into perfect execution."

The early efforts of the friends of this institution, which like the University of Pennsylvania, is the offspring of private liberality, appear to have been crowned with success. In 1786, an act was passed "for its present relief and future endowment," to which the legislature of that day appear to have been moved, not only by a "sense of the high importance of training up a succession of youth in useful and liberal knowledge, to qualify them for filling the places of their elders and predecessors, who, in the usual course of nature, must gradually be called from the active duties of this life," but also, by the consideration, that "under the care and good management of the trustees, the institution was rapidly growing, and promised to be of great advantage, by largely diffusing the liberal arts."

By this act the sum of £500 and 10,000 acres of land, were granted to the trustees of the college. It is plain, from an examination of the act, that this grant was not commensurate with the wishes of the Legislature. "That economy which it was *then* so necessary to preserve in the application of the public property," is assigned, in the preamble to the act, as the reason for making so "moderate a donation." In 1791, the sum of £1500 was granted for "its immediate relief;" and the preamble to the act, making this grant, bears testimony to the fact, that the institution "had been eminently useful in that diffusion of knowledge, which the constitution of this commonwealth, and the general interest of the citizens, require the Legislature to promote."

In 1795, a further grant of \$5,000 was made, under a stipulation that there should be admitted into the college, any number of students, not exceeding ten, who may be offered, in order to be taught reading, writing and arithmetic *gratis*; no one of them to continue longer than two years. The building erected for the accommodation of the students, having been destroyed by fire, and "the funds of the commonwealth not justifying an absolute grant of money," in 1803, an act was passed, authorising the treasurer of Cumberland county, to pay to the trustees of the college, \$6,000 in advance, out of the arrearages of state taxes, due from that county; the loan not to bear interest for two years after the passage of the act, and to be secured by mortgage, payable in seven years, on the 10,000 acres of land, granted to the college in 1786. By an

act passed in 1806, this loan was increased, out of the same fund, to \$10,000, and the prior mortgage directed to be cancelled, on the trustees executing a new one, upon half the above mentioned lands, to secure the re-payment of the whole sum lent, free of interest, five years after the passage of this last recited act. The amount, however, received by the trustees, under these two last mentioned acts, was only \$8,400 instead of \$10,000, in consequence of a deficiency in the fund from which the money was to be drawn.

By an act, passed in the year 1819, the governor was authorised to cancel the mortgage given to secure the above loan; and the trustees of the college were forever discharged from the payment of any debt due from the corporation to the commonwealth.

By an act, passed during the last session of the Legislature, the governor was required to draw his warrant on the state treasurer, in favor of the trustees of this institution, for the sum of \$6,000 so soon as the trustees should, by deed, duly executed and recorded, convey to the commonwealth, all the lands theretofore granted, by the state, to the college, which they had not previously transferred; and also, assign to the commonwealth all securities for the purchase-money of such of the said lands as they had theretofore sold.

By the second section of the act, the trustees were authorised to draw the further sum of \$2,000, annually, for five years. With the terms of commutation offered by this act, the trustees have complied, and received the \$6,000.

The above, the Committee believe to be a correct statement, of "the amount of the appropriations made by the Commonwealth," to Dickinson College. The committee cannot withhold the remark, that though they may appear in the aggregate, to be considerable, yet they were not of such a nature, or made in such a way, as to be productive of substantial benefit or permanent relief to the institution. The lands were never a source of revenue; but, on the contrary, absorbed, annually, a considerable sum in the payment of taxes. The money donations were trifling in amount; and were not expected, by the several Legislatures that made them, to do more than afford temporary relief, to the embarrassed concerns of an institution, which having been erected and cherished by the enlightened views and munificent spirit of the friends of science and literature, "promised to be of great advantage by largely diffusing the liberal arts," and was therefore deemed too valuable to the commonwealth, to be suffered to sink under the pressure of burthens, too heavy to be removed by the enfeebled hands of its founders and patrons. Exhibiting, as it did, in its infancy, the bright prospect of future extensive usefulness, and promising, from its central location, to become a school, in which the rising generation, might with peculiar convenience, acquire those virtuous principles and that liberal knowledge which are the only solid basis of

free government, the Legislatures of 1786, 1791, and 1795, (days of trial and difficulty) *granted a present help*, in the hope, doubtless, that when imperious circumstances no longer required the most rigid economy in the disbursement of the public money, their successors would liberally and permanently endow, a seminary which had thus carefully been handed down to them.

In the apprehension of the committee, there are many considerations, that point out this institution, as one, which, in accordance with the injunction of our constitution, it would have been a wise policy in the state, to have taken under its immediate patronage, & to have placed upon such a foundation, as would have insured the existence of "one seminary of learning," in the centre of the commonwealth, "in which the arts and sciences might have been promoted." It is matter both of surprise and regret, therefore, that when the finances of the commonwealth no longer forbade this course, the legislature should still have persisted in the system of *temporary relief*, and finally should have permitted Dickinson College to sink beneath the weight of accumulated embarrassments.

After struggling for years with difficulties, the result of deficiency in the active funds of the institution, the trustees were compelled to suspend its operations in the year 1816. In this prostrate condition, it continued until very recently. The act of the last session of the legislature, however, has enabled the trustees to revive its operations, under auspices that give it a high claim to the confidence of the public and the protection of the state.

The committee might, perhaps, be charged with stepping out of the defined sphere of their duties, were they to speak of the scientific and literary attainments of the gentlemen composing the faculty to whose charge the trustees have committed the immediate superintendence of the institution. It would, at any rate, be a work of supererogation. Suffice it to say, that "a faculty consisting of a Principal and three Professors has been organized, who associate with high literary qualifications, valuable facilities for instruction. The Rev. I. M. Mason, D. D. is the Principal; Henry Vethake, Esq. professor of Mathematics and Experimental Philosophy; the Rev. John Burns, professor of the learned languages; and the Rev. Alexander McClelland, professor of Belles Lettres and of the philosophy of the human mind."

The college was opened, and these gentlemen entered upon the duties of their several stations, in January last. The present number of students is 28. The number, it is understood, would have been much larger, but for an idea which had gone abroad, that the institution would not be ready for the reception of students this winter. There is every reason to expect a large accession in the spring.

"The branches of learning taught," are those which are usual in a collegiate course, and which the committee deem it unneces-

sary here to enumerate, as it has already been done in speaking of the department of Arts in the University of Pennsylvania.

In the recent *expose* of the trustees, "all the necessary expenditures of a young man for one year" at this seminary, "with the exception of his books, candles and clothing," are estimated at \$ 176 50 cts.

The college edifice, which is of stone, and pleasantly situated, has cost \$ 20,000. The library, consisting of about 2,400 volumes, and the philosophical apparatus, are estimated at \$ 8,000. There are two other libraries, belonging to literary societies, appended to the institution, which consist of upwards of 2000 volumes, well selected.

The committee indulge the hope, that this ancient seminary, established for noble and wise purposes, by the legislature of 1783, nourished by its successors with care and affection, proportioned not to their wishes, but to the slender means of the commonwealth, and now warmed into life by the act of the last legislature, is destined, shortly, to acquire a rank and character, which will render it an ornament and an honor to the state: and, in the language of the law, from which it derives its existence, will become conspicuously useful in "instilling into the minds of the rising generation, the virtuous principles and liberal knowledge by which the most exalted nations acquired their pre-eminence."

FRANKLIN COLLEGE, so called "from a profound respect for the talents, virtues and services to mankind in general, but more especially to this country, of Benjamin Franklin, then president of the Supreme Executive Council," was, by an act of the general assembly, passed in the year 1787, "erected and established in the borough of Lancaster, in the county of Lancaster, for the instruction of youth in the German, English, Latin, Greek and other learned languages, in theology, and in the useful arts, sciences and literature."

From the title and preamble to the incorporating act, it would seem, that this institution, was designed, particularly, for the improvement of our German population. In the title, it is called "the German College and Charity School in the borough and county of Lancaster."

By the incorporating act 10,000 acres of land, lying within the boundaries of what are now the counties of Lycoming, Tioga, Bradford and Venango, were granted to the trustees of the college. By an act, passed in 1788, "the public store house and two lots of ground in the borough of Lancaster," were vested in the trustees, and these appear to be the only "appropriations made by the commonwealth" to the institution. The lands have not, as yet been productive of any revenue to the college; on the contrary, they have been a source of expense.

Soon after the passage of the act, incorporating the institution, a sum of money was raised for its use, by private subscription. This was applied toward its immediate organization. It remained in operation about two years, when the trustees found themselves unable to proceed. Since that time, occasionally a Greek and Latin, and sometimes only an English grammar school, has been kept in the buildings belonging to the board of trustees. From the information before the committee, it does not appear probable, that the institution will be revived, and placed upon the footing contemplated by the act creating it. Indeed there are inherent defects in the charter, which must ever present serious obstacles to any efforts that may be made for the accomplishment of that object.

JEFFERSON COLLEGE, "located" at Canonsburg, in the county of Washington, was incorporated and established, by an act of the legislature, passed in the year 1802. An academy had existed in the place for a number of years, and upon the foundation, which had thus been created, the college was established.

In the year 1806, the legislature granted \$ 3,000 to the institution, providing at the same time, that there should be admitted into the college, any number of poor children, not exceeding four, who may, at any time, be offered in order to be taught *gratis*; none of them however to continue longer than two years, if others should apply for admittance. By an act passed during the last session of the legislature, a further grant of \$ 5,000 was made, to be paid in five annual instalments, commencing on the first of January, 1820.

The above appears to be "the amount of appropriations made by the commonwealth" to this institution. It is chiefly indebted to private benefactions, and the exertions of its friends for its prosperity, since its organization. The funds arising from tuition have been the principal means of supporting the professors.

Four thousand five hundred dollars have been bequeathed to the institution, by individuals, to aid in educating poor, but pious young men, for the gospel ministry—and numbers have already experienced the benefits of this pious bequest.

The college owns a philosophical and a chemical apparatus, which, though not extensive, are each adequate to a practical illustration of those branches of science. The library contains about 1000 volumes; in addition to which, the literary Societies attached to the institution, have each a respectable private library.

This seminary is under the immediate superintendence of the Principal; a professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy; a professor of Languages, and an assistant Teacher. A professorship of Divinity has recently been added, but the students in that department are very limited in number.

"The branches of learning taught" correspond in substance with those which have already been enumerated under the head of Department of Arts in the University of Pennsylvania.

From the representations made to the committee, it appears, that the *whole* "expense" incident to "the education and support of a student," at this institution, will not exceed \$125 *per annum*.—The degree of Master of Arts has been conferred on twenty graduates, *alumni* of this college; and about one hundred and eleven clergymen have received their education, either in whole or in part at this seminary.

The college edifice is of brick, 76 by 45 feet in dimensions, and when completely finished will accommodate from 150 to 200 students. The present number is about 80; and the prospects of the institution warrant the expectation of an increase, rather than a diminution of that number.

WASHINGTON COLLEGE, "located" at the borough of Washington, in the county of Washington, was incorporated and established by the Legislature in the year 1806. The institution was ingrafted, upon the Washington Academy, which from the representation then made to the Legislature, "appeared to be in a condition to extend its plan of education, by having the learned languages, the arts, sciences and literature, taught upon a more enlarged system than generally obtains in seminaries in the country, with funds fully adequate to such an undertaking." This academy was incorporated by the General Assembly, so early as the year 1787, and endowed with 5,000 acres of the unappropriated lands of the commonwealth. This appropriation, like all others of a similar nature to literary institutions, remained for many years, entirely unproductive. In 1797 the Legislature granted \$3,000 to the trustees of the academy "to enable them to complete the buildings for the institution." The act making this grant provided for the admission into the academy of any number of students, not exceeding ten, who may be offered, in order to be taught reading, writing and arithmetic *gratis*; none of them to continue longer than two years.

That this seminary flourished as an academy, is an inference justified by the preamble to the act, converting it into a college. Since its organization as a college, the only "appropriation made to it by the Commonwealth" is a grant of \$5,000 made by the last Legislature, payable in annual instalments, commencing on the first of January, 1820.

The college buildings are 120 feet in length and 40 in breadth; and when completed will accommodate with lodging 36 students, and from 150 to 200 with rooms for recitation. The central building is of stone; the wings of brick, one of them still in an unfinished state. The institution owns a Pneumatic and an Electrical Apparatus, Maps, Globes, an Orrery and a small Library. Attached to the College are two literary societies, instituted for the purpose of promoting useful emulation among the students. Each of these has a private library.

There are three professors in this seminary including the prin-

cipal; and for information as to "the branches of learning taught," the committee respectfully refer to what has been said on that point in relation to Jefferson College. What has been said of Jefferson College, in relation to the annual "expense of educating and supporting the student," is equally applicable to Washington College. The number of graduates at this institution, since its organization, is one hundred and twenty-five. A majority of that number were of the state of Pennsylvania. "The average number of students" in the college has been about 60. The present number is 69. It gives the committee pleasure to add, that the institution is considered by its immediate friends and patrons as in a flourishing state, and that its sphere of usefulness is likely to be extended.

ALLEGHENY COLLEGE, "located" at Meadville, in the county of Crawford, was founded by a number of public spirited gentlemen of that vicinity, in the year 1815, and incorporated by the Legislature in March, 1817.

Two thousand dollars were granted to the institution by the incorporating act, and a further grant of \$5,000, payable in five annual instalments, was made during the last session of the Legislature. These are the only "appropriations made by the commonwealth," to this infant seminary.

In the short period that has elapsed since its incorporation, it could hardly be presumed, that the trustees would have made much progress in the organization of the college. But by the activity and praiseworthy efforts of a few individuals, and especially of the gentleman who fills the station of Principal of the institution more has been accomplished than, under all the circumstances, the most sanguine expectations would have led us to anticipate. The corner stone of a building, to be called "Bentley Hall," in commemoration of a munificent bequest made to the seminary by the late Rev. William Bentley, D. D. of Salem, Massachusetts, was laid in July, A. D. 1820. This edifice is to be built of brick, three stories in height, one hundred feet in length, and thirty-eight feet in width, calculated for the accommodation of one hundred pupils, with rooms also for the reception of a library and philosophical apparatus, &c.

"The number of students" in the seminary at the present moment, the committee are not able to mention. From its very recent establishment, however, the number must be small. The *first class* of graduates, upon whom the degree of A. B. was conferred at the anniversary commencement, in July last, contained six. "The branches of science taught," are substantially the same with those taught in the seminaries, of which the committee have previously spoken; and the expense attending "the education and support" of the pupil, though rated at rather less, will not vary materially from the sum mentioned in relation to Jefferson and Washington colleges.

More than a year ago this institution owned a library valued at six thousand dollars, including, as the committee are assured, "more rare and extremely valuable works than many other public libraries of much greater extent." This collection embraces the private library of the late Rev. Wm. Bentley, D.D. estimated at something more than three thousand dollars, bequeathed to the institution by that gentleman. It also includes a number of English books, presented to the college by Isaiah Thomas, esq. of Worcester, Massachusetts. To the liberality of this gentleman the institution is also indebted for a pair of elegant London made globes. Very recently a noble and splendid addition has been made to this valuable collection, by the liberal bequest of the late judge Winthrop of Massachusetts. This bequest, covering nearly the whole of the private library of the donor, is valued at six thousand four hundred and forty dollars—and this estimate appears to be a low one. In rare and choice works, the committee are assured, that the library of judge Winthrop, was probably not surpassed by any one of similar extent in the Union.

Thus it appears, that through the noble minded liberality of a few individuals, this young but rising seminary, now owns a well selected library, exceeding, at a low estimate twelve thousand dollars in value. While the friends of science at a distance, have been thus mindful of an institution, located in Pennsylvania, our own citizens have not been altogether idle and unconcerned spectators of their bounty. Allegheny college appears to have among them ardent and persevering friends; and has received various donations, which, though not very considerable in amount, sufficiently demonstrate, that its interests have struck a deep root in the public mind. Its location, in a comparatively new, but rapidly improving part of our own state, and its proximity to the states of Ohio and New-York, and the Province of Upper Canada, open to it an extensive field of usefulness. To nourish the fruitful vine which has been planted by careful hands, is the duty of every friend of science, morals and free government.

The following statement exhibits "A list of the *Academies* incorporated within the state, with the dates of their institution," or incorporation, "the amount of appropriations made by the commonwealth to each, and the towns and counties in which they are located."

Academies in the state of Pennsylvania.	Date of the Institution or incorporation.	Amount of appropriations by the Commonwealth.	Town in which located.	County in which located.
1. Public School of Germantown,	1784,	\$ 2,000 A. D. 1821.	Germantown,	Philadelphia.
2. The Pittsburg Academy,*	1787,	5000 acres of land, Sept. 10, 1787. \$5,000 March 16, 1798.	Pittsburg,	Allegheny.
3. The Academy of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the city of Philadelphia,	1787,	10,000 acres of land.	Philadelphia,	Philadelphia.
4. Washington Academy, now Washington College.*	1787,	5000 acres of land Sept. 1787—and \$ 3,000 A. D. 1797.	Washington,	Washington.
5. Reading Academy,	1788,	5000 acres of land, 1788. 448 acres 81 perches do. in 1817-18, P. laws, page 262. \$20000 in 1807	Reading,	Berks.

STATEMENT—Continued.

Academies in the state of Pennsylvania.	Date of the Institution or incorporation.	Amount of appropriations by the Commonwealth.	Town in which located.	County in which located.
6. Charity School of the German Lutheran congregation in & near the city of Philadelphia,		5000 acres of land in 1789,	Philadelphia,	Philadelphia.
7. Charity School of the German Reformed congregation in the city of Philadelphia,		5000 acres of land in 1789,	Philadelphia,	Philadelphia.
8. Public school of the county of Huntingdon.	Feb'y. 19, 1790.	The incorporating act is entitled, "An act for founding and endowing," and the second section speaks of lands therein granted; but no grant whatever is made, either in the printed statute or in the original act in the office of the secretary of the commonwealth.	Huntingdon,	Huntingdon.
9. Academy and Free School of Bucks county.		\$4,000, March 16, 1898.	Newtown.	Bucks.

Academies in the state of Pennsylvania.	Date of the Institution or incorporation.	Amount of appropriations by the commonwealth.	Town in which located.	County in which located.
10. York County Academy. my.*	1799.	\$2,000	York.	York.
11. Chambersburg Academy. my.*	1802, 1807, 1808, 1811, vide pam. laws, 1816--17, page 157.	\$2,000, April 5, 1799. \$1000 in 1811, vide also pam. laws of 1805-6, vol. 8, page 440, and also Bio-ren's edition 61.	Chambersburg Meadville.	Franklin. Crawford.
13. Beaver Academy	1803, 1813.	500 acres of land in 1800 & 1803, vide 3d Smith's laws, page 429, 4 do. do. 322, and pam. laws, of 1803, page 349, and of 1805-6, page 536. \$2000 in 1805.	Beaver.	Beaver.
14. Norristown Academy 15. Bellefonte Academy*	1804. 1805.	In 1805 certain property theretofore granted to the trustees of Centre county.— In 1806, \$2000.	Norristown. Bellefonte.	Montgomery. Centre.
16. Easton Union Academy 17. Greensburg Academy 18. Canonsburg Academy* my* now Jefferson College	1806.	\$2000 in 1805. \$600 in 1806. \$1000 in 1800.	Easton. Greensburg. Canonsburg.	Northampton. Beaver. Washington.

STATEMENT—Continued.

Academies in the state of Pennsylvania.	Date of institution or incorporation.	Amount of appropriations by the Commonwealth.	Town in which located.	County in which located.
19. Wilkesbarre Academy	1807.	2000 dollars.	Wilkesbarre	Luzerne.
20. Falls Township Free School.	1807.	Rents of certain land, vide pam. laws of 1806-7, pages 91, 92, 93.	Fallstownship.	Bucks.
21. Union Academy of Doylestown*		\$800, vide pam. laws of 1806-7, also of 1805, page 24.	Doylestown.	Bucks.
22. Union Academy of Uniontown.*	1808.	2000 dollars.	Uniontown.	Fayette.
23. Northumberland Academy	vide pam. laws of 1804, vol. 6, p. 24.	Vide pam. laws of 1807-8, page 179.—March 28, 1808, 2000 dollars.	Northum'land	Northumberland.
24. Harrisburg Academy	1809.	In 1809 \$1000, in 1814 a lot of ground, vide pam. laws of 1813-14, page 240. In 1818 1000 dollars.	Harrisburg.	Dauphin.
25. Greensburg Academy*	1810.	2000 dollars.	Greensburg.	Westmoreland.
26. Somerset Academy	1810.	2000 dollars.	Somerset.	Somerset.
27. Gettysburg Academy*	1810.	2000 dollars.	Gettysburg.	Adams.
28. Bedford Academy*	1810.	In 1810 \$2000, in 1812 \$2000. The act of 1810 repealed and the appropriation of 1812 only has been received by the trustees.	Bedford.	Bedford.

<i>Academies in the state of Pennsylvania.</i>	<i>Date of institution or incorporation.</i>	<i>Amount of appropriations by the commonwealth.</i>	<i>Town in which located.</i>	<i>County in which located.</i>
29. Greene Academy*	1810.	2000 dollars.	Carmichaels-town.	Greene.
30. Butler Academy*	1811.	\$2000, and in 1813 a tract of land.	Butler.	Butler.
31. Chester county Academy	1811.	2000 dollars.	E. Whiteland township.	Chester.
32. Mercer Academy*	1811.	2000 dollars.	Mercer.	Mercer.
33. Williamsport Academy	1811.	2000 dollars.	Williamsport.	Lycoming.
34. Waterford Academy	1811.	In 1811, 500 acres of land and 15 in-lots in the town of Waterford. In 1816, 8 other in-lots,—vide also pam. laws of 1819-20, page 39.	Waterford.	Erie.
35. Loller Academy	1812.		Hatborough.	Montgomery.
36. Venango Academy*	1813.	2000 dollars.	Franklin.	Venango.
37. Delaware Academy*	1813.	1000 dollars.	The sites were to be fixed by commission-	Wayne.
38. Beach Woods Academy.*	1813.	1000 dollars.	ers named in the incorporating act.	Wayne.
39. Bustleton Academy		500 dollars, in 1813.	Bustleton.	Philadelphia.
40. Athens Academy*	1813.	2000 dollars.	Athens.	Bradford
41. Orwigsburg Academy*	1813.	2000 dollars.	Orwigsburg.	Schuylk.
42. Hughesian Free School	1813.		Buckingham township.	Bucks.

STATEMENT--Continued.

Academies in the state of Pennsylvania.	Date of institution or incorporation.	Amount of appropriations by the commonwealth.	Town in which located.	County in which located.
43. Franklin School	1813.		Franklin township.	Greene.
44. Allentown Academy*	1814.	2000 dollars.	Northampton.	Lehigh.
45. Indiana Academy*	1814.	2000 dollars.	Indiana.	Indiana.
46. Stroudsburg Academy*	1814.		Stroudsburg.	Northampton.
47. Lewistown Academy*	1815.	2000 dollars.	Lewistown.	Mifflin.
48. Lebanon Academy*	1816.	2000 dollars.	Lebanon.	Lebanon.
49. Huntingdon Academy*	1816.	2000 dollars.	Huntingdon.	Huntingdon.
50. Susquehanna Academy*	1816.	2000 dollars.	Montrose.	Susquehanna.
51. West-Chester Academy*	1817.	1000 dollars, in 1817.	West Chester.	Chester.
52. Erie Academy		500 acres of land, adjoining the town of Erie, and 15 in-lots, in that town; also \$2000 from sale of lots in Erie--vide pam. laws of 1819-20, page 175. In 1821, other lots granted in Erie.	Erie.	Erie.
53. Wellsborough Academy*	1817.	2000 dollars.	Wellsborough	Tioga.
54. Danville Academy.	1818.		Danville.	Columbia.
55. Ebensburg Academy*	1819.	2000 dollars.	Ebensburg.	Cambria.
56. Kittanning Academy*	1821.	2000 dollars.	Kittanning.	Armstrong.

The above "list of Academies" made after a careful examination of the various acts of the Legislature, in relation to them, is believed to be critically accurate, so far as it goes. It is possible however, that in the multiplicity of enactments on this subject, some one or more of the seminaries of this grade throughout the state may have been over-looked. It is also possible that appropriations, made in favor of the Academies enumerated in the above list, may have escaped the research of the committee. If so, it is attributable rather to the embarrassments and errors inseparable from such a research, than to a want of attention on the part of the committee. This will be apparent when it is known, that after the most diligent examination, the committee have not been able to ascertain the precise location and date of the incorporation of several of the Academies in the above schedule.

The appropriations made to the Academies marked thus [*] in the above list, were upon condition, that they should educate a certain number of poor children *gratis*.

"Such information as may enable the Legislature to form a correct opinion of the advancing or declining condition" of these Academies, the committee cannot give without speaking separately of each. But that it is presumed would be going into a detail, not contemplated by the Senate, in adopting the resolutions under which this report is made. From an examination of answers received by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, to circular letters addressed by him, to many of those Academies it would seem that comparatively few of them, are in an "advancing condition."

4 EDUCATION OF THE POOR.

"The first school district" composed of the city and county of Philadelphia, is, so far as the information of the committee extends, the only part of the state into which the Lancasterian system of education has been introduced. The schools in this district are organized under an act of the Legislature, passed on the third of March 1818. A brief history, of the operations of these schools, as represented in the several annual reports of the controllers, will best enable the Senate to judge of the economy and efficiency of the Lancasterian system, in the education of the poor.

The board of controllers was organized on the sixth of April 1818, and proceeded to establish schools for both sexes, in the respective sections of the district. It will readily be perceived, that many and vexatious difficulties, must have been encountered, in reducing to practice a plan of education, novel and untried in our state. The inefficiency and expensiveness of all the pre-existing legislative provisions for the education of the poor were well calculated to shake the confidence of the public, in the proposed scheme of reformation, and consequently to embarrass the control-

lers in making the necessary arrangements for its introduction.— But the zeal and benevolent perseverance of these public agents, has overcome the various difficulties that surrounded them and the result of a few years experience, has placed the utility of the system beyond a question.

The number of children in the schools, under the superintendence of the board, during the several years that they have been in operation is as follows, to wit.

	Boys	Girls	Total
In 1818	1507	1338	2845
1819	1677	1591	3268
1820	2594	2775	5369
1821	1624	1345	2969

The annual expense of educating each child has always been less than four dollars per annum. Prior to the establishment of these schools, the commissioners of the county of Philadelphia, paid at the rate of eleven dollars per annum, for each child educated at the public expense. The economy of the new system is therefore too apparent to need any comment; add to which “it is believed that a small part only of the children—thus paid for by the commissioners, were actually taught in the schools in which they were enrolled—from the nature of their office, the various services they have to perform and the imperfection of the laws, it was impossible for the county commissioners to exercise that minute and availing control over either the pupils or teachers,” which is a chief excellence in the present system.

The boys are instructed in reading, writing and arithmetic; and the girls are taught the same branches, as well as needle-work, in its useful and economical departments. The several schools are regularly and vigilently inspected by the directors under whose immediate charge they are; “while the board of controllers extend toward all of them the general supervision enjoined by the laws.” The improvement made by the children, is such as might be expected from a well digested system of education, administered under the watchful superintendence of those who seek no other reward for their labor, save the satisfaction which they derive from seeing the objects of their care trained up in useful knowledge, and fitted for their several stations in society; of the moral and religious influence of these schools, some opinion may be formed, from the fact, that after diligent inquiry no instance appears, of any of the pupils having been arraigned for offences against the laws.

In their last annual report, the controllers say, that “each successive year confirms the utility of the mode of instruction which has been adopted, and it is only to be regretted, that many parents whose children might be brought under its auspices remain regardless of the advantages, from the enjoyment of which they

criminally withhold their offspring." The great disproportion between the number of pupils in 1820 and 1821 is attributed in a considerable degree to an increase in manufactories in Philadelphia and its vicinity, which "has produced a great demand for the labour of young persons, and consequently withdrawn many children from the public schools." If this be the fact, it is an evil of no inconsiderable magnitude, and may well claim the early and serious attention of the Legislature.

During the preceding session of the Legislature, acts were passed modifying or repealing the general school law, within the counties of Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, and Allegheny. Whether any, and if any, what benefits have resulted to these counties, from this change, the committee are unable to say. The bill which has been passed by the Senate, during the present session, will if passed by the House of Representatives, no doubt lead to the introduction of the Lancasterian system, into the city of Lancaster, and the boroughs of Lancaster county.

From the information before the committee, they are induced to believe, that the act of the 4th of April 1810, "to provide for the education of the poor gratis" is wholly *inoperative* in many of the counties of the Commonwealth, and much abused in others. This cannot be a matter of surprise, when it is considered, that it is not made the duty of any person to see that the provisions of the law be faithfully carried into effect. Through the agency of assessors and county commissioners, if they attend to their duty, a list of the children between the ages of 5 and 12 years, in each township ward or district, whose parents are unable to pay for their schooling, is made out and sent to the teachers of schools within such township, ward or district; after which the parent is *at liberty* to send the child to such school, at the expense of the county. But no person is appointed to see that the child is sent to school, or when sent, that it is properly instructed. The school may not be one from which the pupil can derive benefit. Gross negligence or incapacity on the part of the teacher may, and it is believed not unfrequently does defeat the object of public bounty, and renders the whole system useless in its effects upon those intended to be improved by it;—add to which it is apprehended that it is not unusual for a county to pay for the schooling of children who are placed upon the register, but do not attend the school.—Such are some of the consequences of the present system, even where the assessors and commissioners faithfully comply with the requisitions of the law, and parents avail themselves of its privileges.

But from the want of due attention on the part of those officers, or from the culpable neglect or mistaken pride of parents, it frequently happens that the children of the poor do not reap the benefit of even the precarious provision which is made for them by the

act of 1809. In many counties the law is a dead letter. To revise it and provide a more efficient system, may therefore be considered as one of the most urgent duties of the legislature. "Educate the poor" is one of the soundest maxims, one of the most important admonitions, which can reach, and dwell upon the mind of a republican law-giver.

In those parts of the state, where the population is sufficiently dense to render it practicable, the committee would earnestly recommend the adoption of the Lancasterian system of instruction. Its superior excellence in the education of the poor, is fully exemplified, in "The first School District," and the committee can see no reason why it may not with equal success be introduced into the various towns and boroughs throughout the commonwealth.—Teachers may be qualified in the Model School, at Philadelphia free of any charge. The expense incident to the establishment of each school will be trifling, and the annual saving will afterwards be great.

The Committee also respectfully call the attention of the Senate to a bill on its files, reported by this committee, containing provisions which will, in the apprehension of the committee, remedy some of the most prominent defects in the present law, and provide more effectually for the education of the poor *gratis*.

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C. MOWRY,—Printer.  
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